

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

29 OCTOBER 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

ILLEGIB

1. USSR

a. We see Khrushchev's Cuban missile misadventure as a major setback for him personally.

b. The decision to put the missiles in Cuba, as well as the decision to pull them out, was almost certainly his alone. We did not, however, see any signs of high-level opposition to the missile deployment, as we have in the case of some of Khrushchev's other pet schemes.

c. There are no scapegoats for this one and he will be blamed by just about everyone. Many whom he has bullied are probably secretly pleased.

d. The top leadership put in a mass appearance at a theater performance last night, we suspect, to show their ranks are undivided.

2. Cuba

a. Castro faces a serious setback to his prestige.

b. Obviously not consulted beforehand on Khrushchev's exchanges with the President, he is trying hard to get Moscow to back his demands for major concessions from us before pulling the missiles out. So far the only endorsement he has gotten has come from Peiping.

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c. Special editions of two of Havana's leading newspapers were issued yesterday making much of Castro's conditions, and they have been given heavy play on the Cuban radio.

3. Cuba-USSR

a. We do not believe the Soviets will attempt to delay implementation of their promise to dismantle the missile sites.

b. Nor do we believe Khrushchev's expressed "wish" that we discontinue reconnaissance to be intended to provide a pretext for procrastination.

c. We think the USSR would go along if we were to insist that initial steps be taken immediately (next day or two) to get inspection in Cuban organized and under way.

d. Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov arrived in New York last night saying the USSR intends to resolve outstanding international problems through negotiation.

e. Neither he, nor Khrushchev, nor Soviet media have mentioned Berlin in connection with the most recent moves on the Cuba problem, suggesting that Moscow will continue to play the German problem in low key for the time being.

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f. In initial responses Bloc media are claiming that Khrushchev's latest "blow for freedom" proves the USSR's peaceful intentions. The attempt is to salvage some prestige from the shambles by showing that the move averted unilateral US action.

4. East Germany -
Berlin

a. The opinion is gaining ground among officials at the medium level in the East German party and government, that our strong stand on Cuba will cause Moscow to postpone action on Berlin and a peace treaty.

b. Western businessmen who visited East Berlin late last week at the height of the crisis say they found a "business as usual" atmosphere and heard no mention of a blockade of West Berlin in retaliation for the Cuban quarantine.

5. Communist
China - USSR

a. Communist China's leaders have recently stepped up their criticism of Soviet foreign policy and appear determined to undermine confidence in Soviet leadership. We have not gotten a reaction yet to Moscow's latest moves in the Cuban crisis, but it will be bitter.

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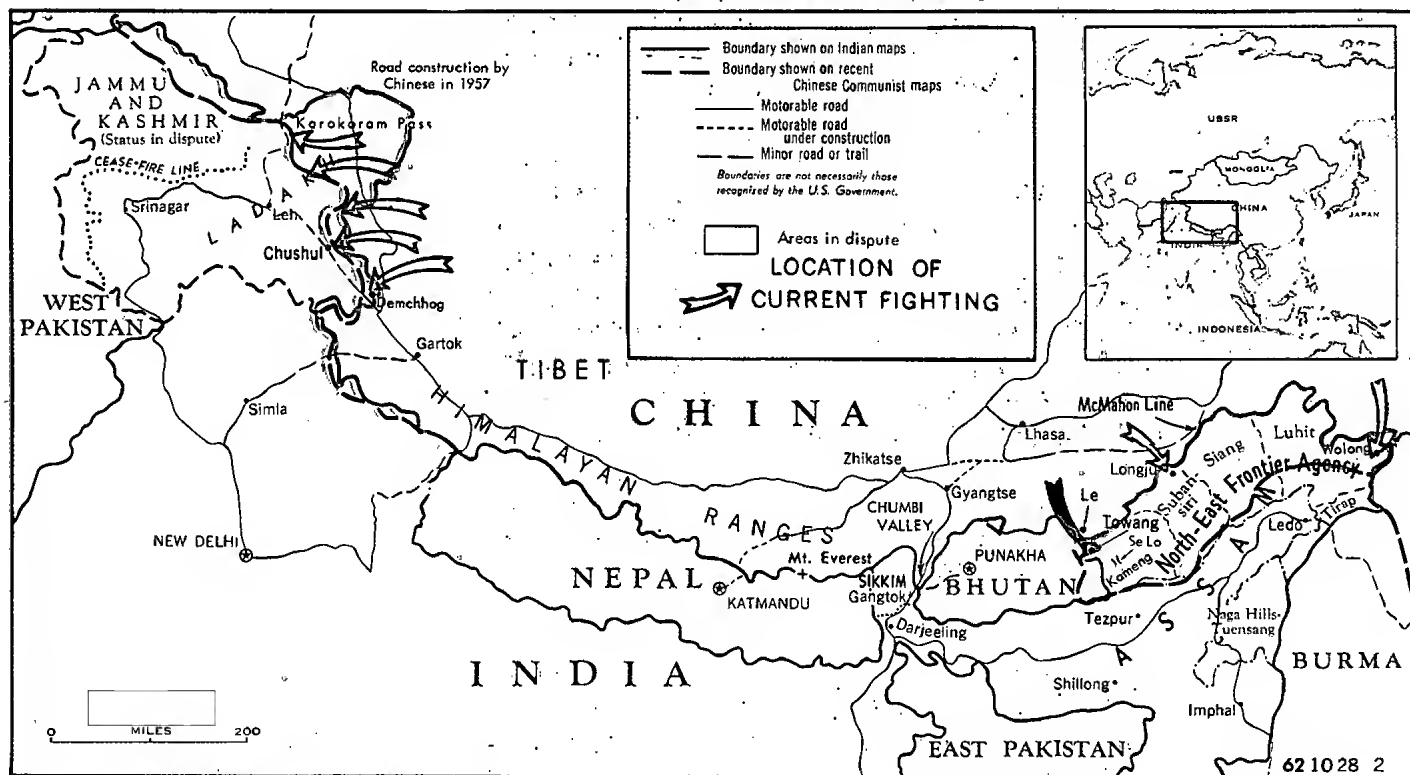
d. Peiping's latest note charges the Soviets with betrayal for allowing international communism to fall behind in the nuclear arms race by not sharing technical information with China since 1959.

e. China also accuses Moscow of betraying the international communist movement on another front-- the India border dispute. Peiping says it is absurd to think of Moscow playing a pacifying role in this issue: "Communists must draw a clear-cut line between themselves and their adversaries."

f. The Chinese, it seems, choose to ignore Moscow's recent shift from neutrality to a position of cautious support for them on this issue.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - INDIA BORDER AREA



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6. China-India

a. The Chinese, while putting out diplomatic feelers, continue trying to soften the Indians up militarily.

b. The Indians are parrying Chinese Communist thrusts at several points in the Northeast Frontier Agency, but the Chinese are making their biggest effort along the road east of Towang toward the Se La pass.

c. There, an important battle is shaping up for control of the strategic pass.

d. We think the Indians, who have been moving reinforcements into the area, will be able to hold; not because they outgun the Chinese (which they don't) but because the Chinese may not make a try at the pass itself and because the weather is now getting rough at that altitude (14,000 ft.).

e. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a Chinese buildup in the Chumbi Valley, a salient of Tibet south of the Himalayan crest which affords one of the better invasion routes into the subcontinent.

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f. This area has remained relatively quiet, although both Chinese and Indian forces have been there in considerable strength for two years.

g. With all this going on on both sides, Bhutan is trying to stay as inconspicuous as possible.

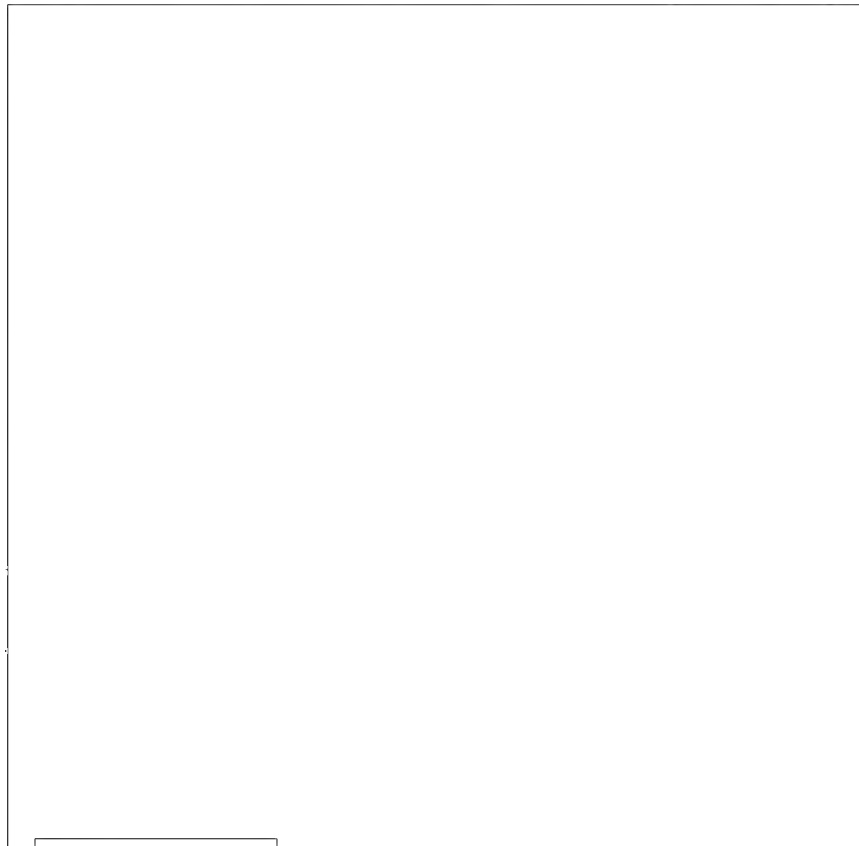
h. Pakistan President Ayub has told Ambassador McConaughy his government would, "of course", take no action which would hamper the Indians in their struggle with the Chinese. But beyond this he refuses to go. He rejected the idea of a public statement or a message to the Indians and clearly is disinclined to be very helpful.

i. McConaughy thinks some prodding from the President might be needed to get Ayub off the dime.

j. The Chinese Nationalists feel the same way about the border area as the Chinese Communists do. They do not buy the McMahon line which they feel was imposed by imperialist pressure when China was weak, and they say there will be a strong public reaction in Taiwan if we recognize the line.

7. USSR

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8. Yemen

a. A reorganization of the revolutionary command in Sana has strengthened the position of those most in sympathy with Cairo

b. Nasir's kingpin in the setup, Deputy Prime Minister Baydani, retains his position. So does Gen. Sallal, who in addition to being prime minister and army chief, will become president of the republic as well.

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c. Some of the others who have opposed growing influence from Cairo have been effectively neutralized by appointment to the regime's delegation at Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

d. Most of the members in the reorganized government are adherents of a religious sect rival to the one that was dominant under the Imamate, and there is a possibility that religious strife may ensue. If it does, it would be a boon to the royalist cause.

e. The UAR buildup of troops and supplies in Yemen continues while, on the royalist side, a Jordanian battalion is moving toward the Saudi border

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9. France

a. The voting in France's plebiscite yesterday was not all De Gaulle would have liked.

b. The "ayes" were 62 percent of the votes cast, but nearly a quarter of the eligible voters stayed away from the polls with the result that the vote in his favor came from only some 47 percent of the eligible electorate.

c. Opponents of De Gaulle feel they have won a moral victory which they will use to advantage in next month's assembly elections.

d. De Gaulle, though disappointed, will stay on.

NOTES

A. East Germany - Berlin A very sophisticated air defense radar communications system [redacted] has cropped up in East Germany in an area adjacent to the central and southern air corridors. This is its first appearance outside the Soviet Union. [redacted] it will greatly improve the accuracy, reliability and transmission rate of radar tracking data. [redacted]

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